

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY NAIROBI NIACT IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJ: PRESS HIGHLIGHTS ON SOUTHERN AFRICA JANUARY 9

SUMMARY: SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES DOMINATED FRONT PAGE OF

TIMES OF ZAMBIA JANUARY 9. TIMES EDITORIAL (SEPTTEL) SAW MEETING
OF FRONTLINE LEADERS AS TAKING PLACE AGAINST A BACKGROUND OF
RISING OPTIMISM THAT A PEACEFUL SOLUTION CAN BE SALVAGED FROM
GENEVA. RICHARD IS GIVEN CREDIT BY TIMES REPORTER FOR SCORING
A DIPLOMATIC COUP IN GETTING SUPPORT OF MACHEL FOR A PEACEFUL
SOLUTION. ZAMBIA AND BOTSWANA CAN BE ASSURED OF THE SUPPORT
OF MACHEL AND NYERERE FOR A PEACEFUL RHODESIAN SOLUTION.
TIMES ALSO FEATURES SITHOLE'S STATEMENT ORIGINATING IN DAR
ES SALAAM, THAT HUNDREDS OF FREEDOM FIGHTERS HAVE BEEN KILLED
IN MOZAMBIQUE DURING CLASHES BETWEEN RIVAL ZANU FACTIONS.
SITHOLE PLACES BLAME FOR THESE CLASHES ON MUGABE. END SUMMARY

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TIMES REPORTER SEES CRUCIAL MEETING OF FRONTLINE LEADERS
TAKING PLACE AMID OPTIMISM THAT A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE
RHODESIAN PROBLEM CAN BE FOUND. MEETING, CHAIRED BY JULIUS
NYERERE, "IS EXPECTED TO HELP THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT FIND A
SOLUTION TO THE DEADLOCKED GENEVA CONFERENCE ON THE REBEL
COLONY." MR. RICHARD HAS MADE A DIPLOMATIC "SCORE" IN GETTING
MACHEL TO SUPPORT A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE RHODESIAN PROBLEM.

"THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT HE AND PRESIDENT NYERERE WILL BACK BOTSWANA AND ZAMBIA ON A PEACEFUL SOLUTION FOR RHODESIA."

ATTENDING THE FRONTLINE MEETING ARE PRESIDENTS KAUNDA, NYERERE, AND MACHEL. BOTSWANA IS REPRESENTED BY VICE PRESIDENT MASIRE, AND ANGOLA BY ROVING AMBASSADOR, PASCO LUVUULU. RHODESIAN NATIONALISTS IN ATTENDANCE ARE NKOMO, MUGABE, AND SITHOLE. MUZOREWA, DELAYED IN RHODESIA BY FAILURE TO GET AIR RESERVATIONS, IS REPRESENTED BY JAMES CHIKEREMA.

TIMES WRITER NOTES THAT THE "REAL CRUNCH WILL COME ON WEDNESDAY OR THURSDAY WHEN MR. RICHARD RETURNS TO SALISBURY TO TRY TO SELL HIS FINAL PROPOSALS TO SMITH AND HIS CLIQUE."

SITHOLE IN A STATEMENT RELEASED IN DAR ES SALAAM ON SATURDAY ACCUSED MUGABE OF SPLITTING ZANU AND SPARKING FIGHTING WHICH HAS RESULTED IN THE DEATHS OF HUNDREDS OF FREEDOM FIGHTERS IN MOZAMBIQUE. ACCORDING TO TIMES ACCOUNT, SITHOLE CHARGED THAT FIGHTING BROKE OUT AFTER MUGABE TOLD RECRUITS IN MOZAMBIQUE THAT THEY SHOULD REGARD HIM AS THEIR LEADER. MUGABE, SAID SITHOLE, HAS NO POLITICAL BASE IN RHODESIA AND WAS TRYING TO USE THE GENEVA CONFERENCE "TO REALISE HIS OWN UNSCRUPULOUS LEADERSHIP AMBITIONS. THE ENEMY IN ORDER TO CONFUSE THE SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE HAS GIVEN MUGABE A STATUS WHICH HIS OWN PEOPLE INSIDE THE COUNTRY DENY TO HIM." THE ACTIVITIES OF MUGABE AND HIS SUPPORTERS HAVE BEEN USED BY THE ENEMY TO DIVIDE ZANU. "MUGABE AND HIS HENCHMEN, SITHOLE CHARGED, HAVE TERRIBLY UNDERMINED THE ARMED STRUGGLYBY TEIR VERY DIVISIVE ACTIVITIES AND ZIMBABWE HISTORY WILL DEAL WITH THEM ACCORDINGLY." LOW UNCLASSIFIED

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